AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (withdrawn) A method for providing an assistance in a vehicle driving operation by displaying an image representing surrounding conditions around the vehicle on a display unit, the method comprising:

a first step of allowing a user to specify, on the image on the display unit, an end position which is a position of the vehicle at an end of a predetermined driving operation; and

a second step of obtaining, for the end position, a start position which is a position of the vehicle at a start of the predetermined driving operation according to a prescribed movement pattern representing a movement of the vehicle in the predetermined driving operation.

- 2. (withdrawn) The driving operation assisting method of claim 1, further comprising a step of displaying the start position, the end position and the prescribed movement pattern while being superimposed on the image on the display unit.
- 3. (withdrawn) The driving operation assisting method of claim 1, wherein in the first step, the end position specified by the user is taken as an input when the vehicle is in a vicinity of the end position.

- 4. (withdrawn) The driving operation assisting method of claim 1, further comprising a step of performing, in a full-automatic or semi-automatic manner, at least one of an operation of driving the vehicle from a current position of the vehicle to the start position and an operation of driving the vehicle from the start position to the end position according to the prescribed movement pattern.
- 5. (original) A system for providing an assistance in a vehicle driving operation, the system comprising:

surrounding condition imaging means for producing an image representing surrounding conditions around the vehicle;

prescribed movement pattern storage means for storing a prescribed movement pattern representing a movement of the vehicle in a predetermined driving operation;

synthesized image production means for producing a synthesized image by superimposing the prescribed movement pattern on the surrounding condition image;

a display unit for displaying the synthesized image; and

pattern selection means for selecting the prescribed movement pattern based on a pointer input operation on a screen of the display unit.

6. (original) A system for providing an assistance in a vehicle driving operation, the system comprising an image processing section for producing an image representing surrounding conditions around the vehicle, wherein the image processing section produces a synthesized image by superimposing, on the surrounding condition

image, a circumscribed area trace of space where the vehicle passes as the vehicle is moved by a predetermined driving operation.

- 7. (original) The driving operation assisting system of claim 6, wherein the image processing section produces the surrounding condition image by synthesizing images output from a plurality of cameras provided on the vehicle.
- 8. (new) A method of assisting a user in operating a vehicle, comprising:

 Automatically sensing and displaying conditions surrounding the vehicle;

 Receiving user input specifying an end position and orientation of the vehicle respective of a display of the conditions surrounding a current vehicle position; and Assisting the user based on the current vehicle position, the conditions surrounding the vehicle, and the end position and orientation of the vehicle.
- 9. (new) The method of Claim 8, wherein assisting the user includes superimposing on the display a trace of space where the vehicle passes as the vehicle is moved according to a predetermined driving operation.
- 10. (new) The method of Claim 8, wherein assisting the user includes automatically operating the vehicle to achieve the end position and orientation.